(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Screening of Film 'Asoka'

†1434. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that protests against screening of film 'Asoka' based on the life of Ashoka the Great and directed by Santosh Sewan, have been registered in a number of major cities in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the premier show of this film was held in a Delhi based Government auditorium; and

(c) the reasons for giving Government support and screening of this film in Government auditorium?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There have been reports in the press about some incidents of protests, in some parts of Orissa, against the screening of the film 'Asoka'.

According to the Distributor the film was released for public viewing in different parts of India for the first time on 26th October, 2001. It was released in the following theatres in Delhi:

1. Plaza	8. PVR Anupam
2. Golcha	9. PVR Naraina
3. Sangam	10. Samrat
4. Vishal	11. Gagan
5. Eros	12. Sapna
6. Rachna	13. Swaran
7. Aakash	14. Batra

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

None of these belong to the Central Government.